



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GRAND JURY INDICTS MANSFIELD, WILLOW SPRINGS, LICKING, MO., MEN FOR ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF FIREARMS

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that three men were indicted by a federal grand jury today, in separate and unrelated cases, for violating a federal firearms law.

* **Wayne T. Harris**, 63, of Mansfield, Mo., was indicted by a federal grand jury in Springfield for being a felon in possession of four firearms.

The federal indictment alleges that **Harris** was in possession of a Marlin 30-30 rifle, a Westernfield 30-06 rifle, a Remington .22 caliber rifle and a Colt .38 caliber pistol on Nov. 19, 2003, in Wright County, Mo. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Harris** has a 1982 criminal felony conviction for shooting into a dwelling, a 1986 criminal felony conviction for conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine and a 1987 criminal felony conviction for being a felon in possession of a firearm.

This case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Alex C. Lewis. It was investigated by the Wright County, Mo., Sheriff's Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **Charles G. Sullins**, 40, of Licking, Mo., was indicted by a federal grand jury in Springfield for being a felon and an unlawful user of a controlled substance in possession of three firearms and ammunition.

The federal indictment alleges that **Sullins** was in possession of a Marlin .22 caliber rifle, a Hi-Point 9 mm handgun and an Astra 9 mm handgun with ammunition on July 25, 2002, in Texas County, Mo. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. It also is a violation of

federal law for any unlawful user of a controlled substance to be in possession of a firearm or ammunition, Graves added. **Sullins** has three 1996 criminal felony convictions for sale of a controlled substance.

This case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Alex C. Lewis. It was investigated by the Texas County, Mo., Sheriff's Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **Valentin P. Belyavskiy**, 25, of Willow Springs, Mo., was indicted by a federal grand jury in Springfield for being a felon in possession of a firearm and ammunition.

The federal indictment alleges that **Belyavskiy** was in possession of a Marlin .22 caliber rifle and ammunition on Nov. 1, 2003, in Howell County, Mo. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Belyavskiy** has a 1998 criminal felony conviction for taking a motor vehicle without permission.

This case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Alex C. Lewis. It was investigated by the Howell County, Mo., Sheriff's Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in the indictments are simply accusations, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow